

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 - 13 August 1957		2. LOCATION Bakersfield, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Meteor <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT - - -		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION - - -		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS - - -		9. COURSE - - -	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Letter requesting information regarding sighting objects that were believed to be meteors.				11. COMMENTS Persieds meteor shower during the period of 9 - 13 August. No report in file.	

AFCIN-484

Mr. [REDACTED]
Route [REDACTED]
Bakersfield, California

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your letter of 12 September, addressed to the Department of the Army concerning a report of an unidentified aerial object, has been referred to the Air Force for review and comment.

A careful study of your report indicates that you observed a seldom seen form of a meteorite, generally referred to as "bolides" or "fireballs". Between the 9th and 13th of August the earth intersected a meteoric swarm called the Perseids. Past experience with meteoric swarms of this nature shows that a larger number of meteorites, "shooting stars", and fireballs are observed during this period.

Your description of the object is so similar to a description of these bodies given by a well known astronomer that a portion is given here:

".....A majority of people never see one in their lifetime. Fireballs differ from ordinary meteors in that they appear like a magnesium flare hurtling through the lower atmosphere. They are predominantly greenish in color, but often have blue, yellow or orange tints intermixed. Unlike meteors which become visible and burn out at high altitudes, fireballs do not burn out in the air but generally persist until they crash to earth, sometimes breaking into smaller sections and an array of sparks before doing so..."

Your reporting of this incident to the authorities and the interest shown in the matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Red 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

8 October 1957

Dear Captain Elwood:

Inclosed, please find letter from Mr. [REDACTED] regarding unexplained aerial phenomena in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area, on 9 and 10 September 1957.

Mr. [REDACTED] has been advised of this referral.

Also inclosed is a letter from Mr. [REDACTED] of Bakersfield, California reporting a sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object.

These letters are forwarded to your Headquarters for possible investigation and/or evaluation.

Sincerely,

2 Inclosures

1. ltr fr Mr. [REDACTED]
2. ltr fr Mr. [REDACTED]

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Captain Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
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